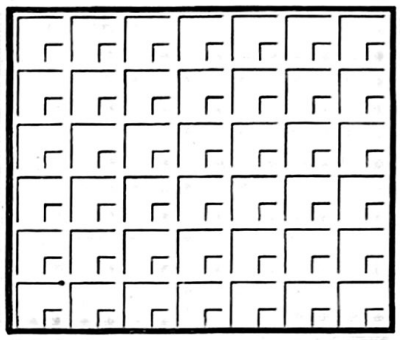
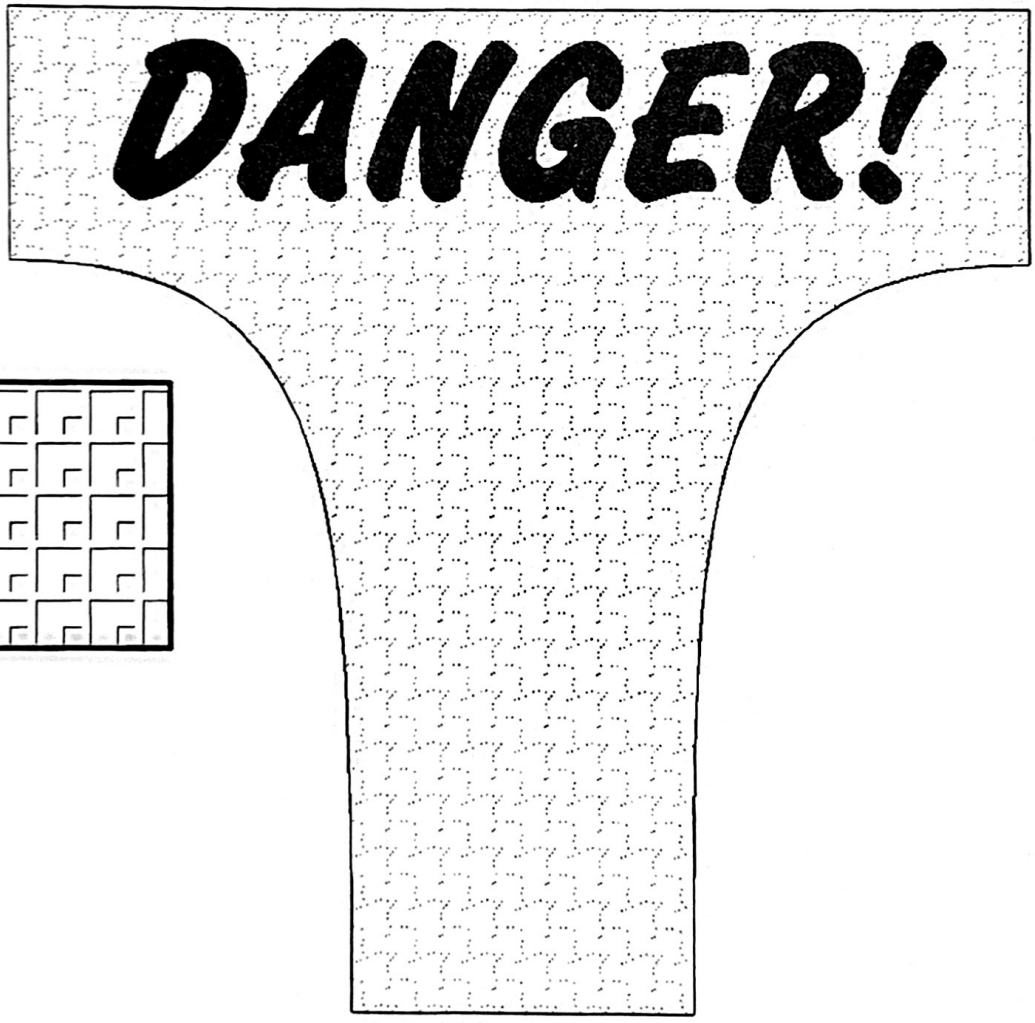
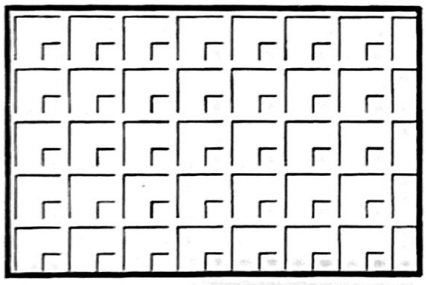
Bar Hill News

March '99 No. 352



Bar Hill School Says:-





MAKE THE HAMMERHEAD SAFE!

Bar Hill Residents' Association

1999/2000 Committee

Chairman	Mrs. M. J. Carpenter	200941	48 Foxhollow
Secretary	Mrs. M. Shubotham	781553	14 Hillcrest
Treasurer	Mr. R. Iyer	200910	56 Oatlands Avenue
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BHN Adverts Co-ordinator	Mrs. B. Waters	201421	77 Foxhollow
BHN Distribution Co-ordinator	Mr. M. Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue
Subscriptions Co-ordinator	Mr. E. Ceraudo	200792	30 Otter Close

Plus - Mr. R. Hall (11 Almond Grove - 780304), Mrs. P. Hubbard, Mr. J. Hubbard, Mrs. V. Evans (49 Foxhollow - 780403), Mrs. R. Iyer (56 Oatlands Avenue - 200910), Mrs. E. Welmer

Objectives

The objectives of the Association are to act as an intermediary between the Residents and other parties, to keep Residents informed of matters of importance and recreation in and around the Village, and to promote the interests of Bar Hill. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association. This is a private publication and may not be reproduced in any way without the permission of the Bar Hill Residents' Association committee.

Bar Hill News Contributions

What	Who	Tel.	Where	When	Cost	Page area	Width(mm)	Height(mm)
Articles & "What's On'	Mrs. M. J. Carpenter	200941	48 Foxhollow	15th of month	free	NA	NA	NA
Domestic Ads.	Mrs. M. J. Carpenter	200941	48 Foxhollow	15th of month	£2.50	1/16	93	31
Local Enterprise Ads.	Mrs. M. J. Carpenter	200941	48 Foxhollow	15th of month	£5.00	1/8	93	64
Commercial ¼ page Ads.	Mrs. B. Waters	201421	77 Foxhollow	1st of month	£10	1/4	93	130

Anonymous letters will not be published. All telephone numbers without an area code are Crafts Hill (01954)

Health Centre 780442

Health Visitors - 781855

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
Health Centre	8:30-12:00	2:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	2:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	2:00-6:00	8:30-12.00	2:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	2:00-6:00
Dr. R. Ranasinghe	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	2.30-6:00	8:30-12:00	2.30-6:00			8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00
Dr. J. Hassan	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00	8:30-10:00		8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00
Practice Nurse	8:30-12:00	4:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	2:30-6:00	8:30-12:00	2.30-6:00	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00	8:30-12:00	3:00-6:00
Child Immunisation (Practice Nurse)		03:00								
Physiotherapist	08:40			03:00						
Midwife (Antenatals)		02:00								
Child Health Clinic (Child and Family team - by appointment only)										2:00-4.30[1]
Chiropody					9:00-12:00		9:00-12:00	2:00-5:00		
Dietitian			9:30-12:30[3]							
Orthoptist			9:00-12:30[2]						9:00-12:30[4]	
Psychiatric Doctor										2:00-4:30[5]
Psychiatric Nurse						02:00				
CAMTAD			9:00-12:00[4]							
Consultant Paediatrician						2:00-5:00[3]				

1 - 1st & 3rd in month
2 - 2nd in month
3 - 3rd in month
4 - 4th in month
5 - 2nd & 4th in month

Saturdays: (emergencies only) 1, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge 9.00 - 11.00 am ☎ 01223 364127
'Out of hours' (emergencies only) ☎ 01223 464242 for URGENT attention

Useful telephone numbers

Bar Hill News (1/4 page adverts)	201421
Bar Hill News (general)	200941
Church (Revd. Gary Renison)	781629
Health Centre	780442
Parish Council (Clerk)	780456
Police (PC 1187 Richard Newman)	01223 358966
Pre-School Playgroup	780445
School	273305
Social Club	206117
Sunshine Pre-School	789099
Swavesey VC	230366
Village Hall	206179

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Jumble sales,
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Seminars,
Training days,
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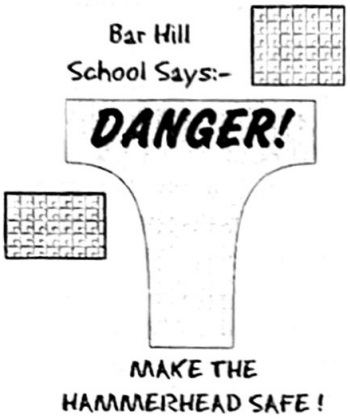
206179

Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those held by the Residents' Association Committee. Alternative viewpoints are always welcome but anonymous letters will not be printed. The Editor reserves the right to withhold names and addresses where appropriate.



The Hammerhead

Make the Hammerhead safe !

Bar Hill School Governors have started a campaign to eliminate traffic in the Hammerhead at the beginning and end of school times. This follows a steady increase in the number of parents parking immediately in front of the school instead of using the car parks provided. There have also been several reports of incidents involving children and cars and the Governors intend to take direct action to encourage parents to help reduce this unnecessary risk and make the approach to school safer for everyone.

Julian Finbow, the Parent Governor who is co-ordinating the campaign said "With children in danger we cannot and will not wait until something serious happens. The Council cannot restrict parking in the Hammerhead and so it is up to everyone to think carefully about whether they are prepared to help protect other people's children. With the extensive amount of car parking at Tesco available just yards from the school there is no excuse for having to drive right up to the school."

If you have a view on this or even a possible solution please feel free to contact Julian Finbow either via the school or on **200818**

Tesco Developments

With reference to the letter in the February issue of the Bar Hill News, concerning the proposed re-development by Tesco, I would like to comment on several points it raised:

1. I think it was a good idea for Tesco to have been given the opportunity to discuss with the Primary school children the benefits the proposed enlargement of their store will bring to the village

The children are part of the community; in a few years they will be teenagers, some probably employees of Tesco, and many of them customers, so it will help to cultivate interest and pride in their village as they grow up.

2. 475 extra jobs were mentioned; I don't suppose this means there will be 475 extra staff all on at the same time, they are more likely to be spread over various shifts throughout the week.

3. On the subject of the Mall and the derelict Garden Centre, it seems that Tesco have been waiting for planning permission for these areas, without which improvements and alterations cannot go ahead.

4. Car Parking - The car parks are well laid out and situated in relation to the store, as well maintained as any I have seen and certainly not unsightly.

5. Traffic problems - it was stated that the redevelopment would increase the traffic problems on the A14.

Looking at this from another angle, it could well be that the traffic is reduced slightly by the Tesco store being at Bar Hill, for instance residents of the village can do a large part of their shopping at Tesco instead of having to drive along the A14. As a number of residents are Tesco staff, they also have no need to use the A14 for gettting to and from work. Of the remainder of the workforce, the majority probably come in from local villages, from some of which the A14 can be crossed into Bar Hill without actually driving along it, and the staff who do have to use the A14 are probably only on it for a short time.

This also applies to customers coming in who would otherwise have to spend more time on the A14 to get to other stores to do their shopping. I acknowledge that only having one road in and out of Bar Hill could create problems, but as the staff and customers leave at varying times, normally in a steady flow, these would most likely be kept to a minimum should they arise.

I am a newcomer to the village, but I sometimes wonder what the people who have been born here and grown up here imagine Bar Hill would have been like without Tesco.

Tony Buddle

Tesco Developments in 1999

I have lived in Bar Hill for 28 years and can remember how Bar Hill was, and how difficult it was to live here before Tesco stores came.

As well as raising the value of housing I would say that Tesco have, in real terms, done more to enable a better standard of living at reduced cost than any Bank or Government organization.

Despite what some folks say, I still think that Tesco can be trusted in their development plans; they have in my view always been reasonable about practical suggestions and far-sighted in their strategy.

They cannot be held to blame for all the slownesss in development of commerce or road plans or delays. Much of this is due to local and national Government policy, and also the lack of influence that our politicians seem to have with Government Ministers.

I have had no real problem with traffic into and out of Bar Hill due to the impact of Tesco; most has been due to A14 snarl-ups, but I am concerned about the lack of secondary access and isolation in the case of fire and ambulance need - here people and property are indeed at risk.

But what if Tesco should pull out? Speculation, but possible, for in this competitive world they must make money to survive, to survive they must grow, and to grow, they need space for themselves and customers.

Mike Fiske

Bar Hill Parish Council

2 The Mall
☎780456

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on 18 February 1999

Tesco Redevelopment

Subject to approval by the Highways Agency.

Tree Management Programme

The trees deemed dangerous to property should by now have been felled. Further cutting back/pruning of other trees/hedges will be taking place at the moment.

Play Area

Contractors have quoted to carry out the refurbishment of play areas around the Village. A decision will be made shortly.

Youth Centre

The Clerk and two Parish Councillors have met with South Cambs District Council to look at the feasibility of a basketball area at the rear of the Youth Centre. The County Council Education Authority and Cambridgeshire Fire Officer are being contacted for their views.

Lorries & Cars Parking on Grassed Areas

Lorries and cars are parking on the grass verges around the Village, especially near the Nature Reserve and Balancing Lake, churning up the verge and leaving large ruts in the grass. Parish Councillors are attempting, where possible, to find out who the owners of the vehicles are. If you notice a vehicle parked in this manner, please contact me with the registration number and any other details which will help the police identify the owner.

Dog Fouling

If you see an owner not clearing the above, please take a note of the type of dog and colour, if possible the owner's name, the time and place you witnessed this happening. Contact South Cambs District Council (**01223 443000**) and ask for the Dog Warden, who will then take the necessary action.

Handy Telephone Numbers

StreetLights: (freephone) **0800 253529** give the CCC No. (which will be written on the lamppost).

South Cambs District Council **01223 443000** (see p 268 of your telephone book for the services covered).

Cambs County Council **01223 717111** (see p98 of your telephone book)

Alternatively call me, your Parish Clerk, I will try my best to be of assistance.

Neighbourhood Watch

There were two house burglaries in January and one could easily have been prevented!

Don't let anyone into your home unless you are absolutely sure that they have a genuine reason to enter and can prove their identity. Remember the service organizations work on an appointment system and will give passwords if required. If it is an emergency situation, still check the caller's credentials - remember that ID cards can be forged.Check with the company by 'phone, using the 'phone book to obtain the number. A genuine caller will not mind waiting and a bogus caller will not hang around.

The chances of it happening to you are small but a moment's carelessness can cause you months of heartbreak and provide the crook with a comfortable lifestyle. If you see anything suspicious report it - even if only to your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

The AGM of Neighbourhood Watch is on Thursday May 20th in the Village Hall. Come along and make your views known. If you have any queries or comments please don't hesitate to call me.

John Revell 201258

Thought for the Month

I know that the retail trade needs to plan well in advance, to provide us with the things we need throughout the year. I do find it a bit strange though, that as soon as Christmas is over, the Easter eggs appear on the shelves.

Easter is still over a month away, and during March we are actually in the season of Lent. Just as with Advent, which leads up to Christmas, Lent is a time of preparation. For many people, it is often associated with giving things up, and being rather sad and miserable. This is not the true meaning at all. Many people use this time to look at their own lives, how they spend their time, what they do with their money.

Perhaps, for a short period, the money we spend on sweets or cigarettes could be given to a charity. Whatever our own circumstances, we are all much better off than most of the people in this world. Easter is indeed a time for celebration - but it can be all the more special if we anticipate and prepare for it during Lent.

So leave those Easter eggs alone for another few weeks. They will wait, but some of the concerns of our world need action today. Prepare for Easter, and then celebrate it knowing that you have something to be thankful for, and that you have played your part in giving someone else a reason to celebrate too.

Rev. Anthony Howells

To all cross-stitchers/quilters

Delwyn Bopp of Crosspatch will be bringing a large selection of cross-stitch patterns, kits and various needlecraft accessories including American cross-stitch magazines and quilting materials to Bar Hill Scout hut on Thursday 11th March from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. 25p donation for admission to go to the Scouts. Any enquiries please ring **782118** or **200951**.

The Editor apologises for the late delivery of this edition of the Bar Hill News. This was due to pressure of work and family commitments.

ROBIN HUGHES-PARRY & ASSOCIATES

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Pre-School Playgroup

Welcome to the
Bar Hill Pre-School Playgroup

We are located within the Village Hall which is on the Village Green, and can easily be reached from the perimeter road via The Spinney.

Our aim is to enhance the personal and social development of all children placed in our care. This is achieved through various activities. Each session has a timetable of activities for everyone at the session to follow. We make full use of all equipment at our disposal by using not **one room** but **two rooms**, for which we thank the Village Hall Committee.

All our sessions are run by our team of experienced, friendly and trained staff - Heather, Jenny and Gill. All three ladies have gained Certificates in **Basic Emergency First Aid.**

Session times:-

Mon, Wed & Thu.	9.15 - 11.45 am
Tue. 'Play Tots'	9.30 - 11.00 am
Tue.	12.30 - 3.00 pm
Fri. 'Rising Fives'	9.15 - 11.45 am

Playtots

This session is for 18 month to 2½ year olds only, with their parent/carer. We offer the ideal introduction to playgroup life. The session is run by either Heather or Jenny. Come and pay a visit - we would love to see you. Half way through the morning refreshments etc. are on sale too. The catch? Well, all you have to do is **'Pay as they Play'**- this is a pay-when-you-come morning.

Vacant Places

A few places are available now. Please call our Administrator Julie Jolley **780445** to book a visit and start date. Please feel free to call in and see us and look at what we do in each session. Our Playleaders will be happy to show you around both rooms and answer any questions you have.

Thankyous

Our Playgroup wishes to thank Mr graham Sadler and Mrs. Lesley Sadler of the Bar Hill Sports and Social Club for all their support and wish them well in the future. Grateful thanks also to Eddie for making our Giant Blackboard and other equipment.

OFSTED Inspection

This took place over two days in February. Special thanks go to our dedicated staff, Heather, Jenny and Gill, for putting in the many extra hours preparing for this inspection and for creating our timetable of topics for the whole of 1999, quite a task, to say the least. We are very pleased to report that the Playgroup had a very successful inspection. A full report will be available on request. Well done, Ladies!

Nursery Grant Scheme

Children using the Grant Scheme are entitled to up to 5 free sessions per week. We are now taking names of children for the next wave of Grants so please call Julie Jolley for more information and to secure a place for your child.

HAPPY EASTER to all the children and families who attend our Playgroup.

For Sale

Ladies Shopping Bike	£25
Sofa Bed	£50
Exercise Rowing Machine	£10

201127

Under Ones

Come along from 10 - 12 am on a Wednesday morning in the Church Octagon for coffee/tea and a chat.

All are welcome, mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers with babies birth to 12 months.

We have a wide variety of toys, a book library and changing facilities.

An informal friendly morning to relax and let the babies play.

For more information contact Alwyn Keeves **781050**

Sunshine Pre-School

The Sunshine Pre-School is in the brightly painted building next to the school. We aim to provide a wide range of experiences for children aged 3 and up, such as art and craft, co-ordination, construction and imaginative play and many other creative and educational activities. After milk and fruit more varied activities are arranged. We have a safe fenced-in play area and garden which is used for the larger activity toys in the summer. Children also enjoy the occasional cookery lesson and nature walk. Each session ends with a story or singing. Our qualified Pre- school Leaders are Jo and Pauline. If you are interested in a place for your child please call in at any session. Application forms are also available from The Library and Patsie Ostler **201079** (Before 7pm).

Sunbeams

Our new Toddler Session for Thursday afternoons (1-3pm), called 'Sunbeams' is for children of 18 months to pre-school age, with parent or carer, to come along, play and have fun. The sessions will be led by Jo, our qualified playleader. Each session will cost £1.50, payable in advance every half/ full term.

We will be holding a Jumble Sale on 27th March, 2 - 4 pm at Bar Hill School.

Session Times:-

Mon - Fri 9-11.30 & 12.30-3.00 pm.

Useful numbers

Sunshine Building		**789099**
Hiring the building	Tracy Finbow (4 - 7pm weekdays only)	**200818**
Parent Help Rota	Rosemary Pryhc (before 7pm)	**200397**
Administrator	Patsie Ostler (4 - 7pm weekdays only)	**201079**

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Thank you for your donations and support at our Cake Stall last month. We hope to have another one in May.

AGM

Mon. 15th Mar. at 7.30pm in the Community Lounge, Bar Hill School

The Toy Library is run by a committee of 9 members, who rely on the willing help of other members taking turns to help at the sessions. Please feel free to speak to any of the committee with any comments you may have about Toy Library or any suggestions you may have for new toys. We look forward to meeting you at the next session. Ask your friends to come with you; we welcome residents from surrounding villages too. If you can spare a few hours a month or a year please speak to a committee member about joining the popular Bar Hill Toy Library committee. You don't need to wait till the AGM to join.

Sessions

See Teddy for times. There won't be a session on 2nd and 9th April because of the school holidays.

Nearly New Sale

Sat. 24th Apr. 2-3pm at Bar Hill School. Condition forms for sellers are available from Wendy Caton **782041**. Goods for sale must be brought to the School on Friday 23rd April **at and not before** 7.30pm. Unsold items must be collected from the School at 4.45pm on Saturday 24th April. It would help us if you could sort clothing between boys, girls and babies, etc. and mark all items clearly with the price and the seller number. Cheques will be sent out within one week of the sale. A one-off payment of £2, plus 10% commission will be deducted from your payment. Completed condition forms must be returned by 16th April.

For more information about Toy Library pick up a copy of our latest Newsletter at Toy Library sessions (see teddy for times) or ring Avril on **782431**

Welcome Home From Hospital

This hospital discharge scheme, managed by Care Network with joint Health and Social Services funding, is currently seeking volunteers.

All out of pocket expenses (including a car mileage rate) are paid and volunteers receive training. Patients are assessed according to their individual needs, but it is people living alone and with no immediate care available on discharge who benefit most from the service. Volunteers can provide help and company for patients who may have a Social Services Package of care as well as those with no such package. This scheme can last up to two weeks from discharge with a maximum of 7 visits.

The success of the scheme depends solely on the volunteers who give their valuable time. Last year's recruitment drive through the pages of the parish magazines was instrumental in enabling the scheme to begin its work.

If you can spare any time to help someone adjust to life back home from hospital, PLEASE contact the co-ordinator at the address or phone number below. No particular skills are needed; just a caring nature and common sense! The duties will be very simple, such as making a hot drink or light meal, warming the house, perhaps a bit of shopping - really just making sure the person is all right and has what they need, usually only taking up an hour of your time each visit.

Enquiries are welcome from volunteers with or without their own transport.

If you are interested in volunteering for this rewarding work, please contact Paul Seekings, co-ordinator, Welcome Home from Hospital, Box No. 195, Addenbrookes Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QQ or phone Paul direct on **01223 217532**

Legal Problems? .....
Rachel Conn & Co Solicitors
The Solicitor in Bar Hill
47/8 Viking Way
☎ 208080

Bar Hill School PTA

Bar Hill School PTA would like to thank everyone who left out items to sell at the recent jumble sale. It was a great success.

Car Wash

We will be holding a car wash at the school on March 20th. The car wash will be done by adults, starting at 9 am and finishing at 1 pm. Why not come along, have a rest and a coffee, whilst supporting the school for a small fee?

Diary Dates

Wed. 3rd Mar. SOLD-OUT Stencil demonstration at the School.
Sat. 20th Mar. 9.00 - 1.00 Car Wash at the School.

E. Washbourne

One man's life made such an impact that calendars are dated from his birth. There has never been anyone like him. Ever. And over the next five months you will discover Y.

Y - he came

"The Y symbol shows what made one man so special that time is dated from his birth. The Y has two points that become one. In the same way, God and man became one in the person of Jesus.

Some 2000 years ago, Jesus fed hungry people; made sick people well; gave life to those who had died; helped those abandoned by society; forgave the sins of people wanting a new start and rose to life again after his death.

The downward movement of the Y also reminds us that Jesus came down from heaven. So the Millennial celebrations are like Christmas - when we remember the birth of the One who was God and came to live among us."

If you would like to keep this text in the form of a bookmark, please pick up a copy of 'The Octagon' from either of the Church buildings or speak to Maureen and Ian Hay **789351**.

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Woodcraft Folk

Woodcraft Folk is an organisation catering for boys and girls aged 6 years and upwards. Bar Hill has an 'Elfin' group for children aged between 6 and 10. The Foxglove Elfins meet every Friday evening during term time in the School Studio between 6 and 7.15 pm.

This term the children have been working towards 'I Begin', 'I Am' or 'I Belong' badges, depending on the length of time they have been attending Woodcraft Folk. We will be looking at the history of the Woodcraft Folk and what it means to be an Elfin. In March we will be making a totem pole, so collect plenty of cardboard boxes and brown paper! There will be a special exhibition evening on 13th March for parents to come and admire our craftwork for this term.

Woodcraft Folk is run as a parents' co-operative with all parents of participating children being involved in the planning and running of meetings.

For more information or enquiries about waiting lists, please contact Heather on **200927**.

SPAN THE WORLD WITH FRIENDSHIP

Linda's Workouts in Bar Hill

Mon. 6.30-7.30	Body Workout	School
Wed. 7.00-8.00	Body Workout	Church
Thu. 6.50-7.50	Step	Church
Thu. 8.00-8.50	Thighs, Tums & Bums	Church

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The Royal British Legion

At our last meeting the total collected for the 1998-9 Poppy Appeal was given as £3,898.65. This is a great effort on the part of all concerned and our thanks are offered to everyone who helped raise this total, especially the non-members who stood for many hours with collecting boxes.

We have received notice of the next meeting of Group 4 which will be at Swavesey Memorial Hall on Thursday 4th March at 7.30 pm. The Group Secretary has sent us a special invitation for as many members as possible to attend.

Our next Branch meeting will be on Thursday 25th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the usual Social evening.

E. Patrick 782136

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Laura Knapp on ☎ 200431 ☎ 0410 451293

Hi, hope you all had a nice Christmas break and didn't get the 'flu, like some of us.

I've got quite a lot to recap but I'll start with the Christmas productions.

Bar Hill Primary School had not only a carol concert but with the help of Mr Woodrow a Drama extravaganza, with singing, acting and recitals on many instruments.

It was also good to see so many people participating in the Swavesey village College concert which had singing, extracts from literature and musical groups performing their work from the term.

This term instead of a music concert Swavesey are performing 'Joseph and the amazing technicolour dream coat' *which promises to be a night to remember so look out for tickets for that.*

As always if you have anything you would like me to mention in this column send your idea to the editor (address at the front of the Bar Hill news.)

Bye!

Lucy Ryan

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Little Acorns

Little Acorns is a privately run pre-school for children aged 3 and 4 years. Sessions are held daily in the meetings room or on Mondays in the Studio at the School. We have three members of staff at each session and we provide a caring, sociable, educational environment in which all children are treated as valuable individuals.

A typical session would take the following form:

- Children arrive and choose a free activity eg. play-dough, water-play, weighing and measuring, sorting, construction, role-play and creative activities.
- Circle time. All the children gather on the carpet for a discussion time, including days of the week, the topic and a chance for each child to show and discuss the treasure they have brought to the session.
- Snacks and drinks
- Singing/music & movement
- Structured activities - The children divide into three groups. One group does worksheets, one group do name writing and the other group participate in making something related to the topic. The groups rotate until they have participated in each activity.
- outside play
- music / parachute play / story
- home time

Children take home worksheets or story books to share at home with the rest of the family. Sally and Deb can be contacted by parents out of session times to discuss anything which may arise. We also organise several parent consultation evenings throughout the year so parents can be kept informed of their child's progress and ask any questions they may have.

In the term after their 4th birthdays children are entitled to up to 5 free sessions per week under the Nursery Grant Scheme. If you would like information about the scheme or would like to make an appointment for a visit, we would love to meet you and your child; please contact us.

Sally (201074) Deb (780284)

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Parent and Toddler Group is for children of 12 months to 3 years. Sessions are held in the Church Centre. In each session there will be painting, messy play, sand, large activity toys, puzzles, books and much more. We also have a singing and action time at the end of each session.

Session times:

Mon - Fri mornings 10.00-11.30
(Wednesday for 12 - 18 month Toddlers only)
Mon & Tue afternoons 1.30-3.00

To find out more or book a session, please contact Janine **777303**. You are welcome to call in and have a chat with supervisors **Jo, Gill & Louise**.

Pay & Play (Monday 1.30 - 3.00pm). All toddler age children are welcome. There is no need to book, just come along to these themed sessions for £1 per child, which includes a drink and biscuit (20p for tea & coffee). *Please note* - these sessions are now available to **all under pre-school children**

New Committee

If you are interested in joining the committee please see the poster on the Toddler board or speak to any member for more information.

*Melanie Stamp **789064***

Children's Activity Afternoon

The date has been fixed for 15th July 2000. The venue will be the School field and playground.

Easter Egg Hunt

Come and join in our fun Easter egg Hunt on **Friday 9th April** at the **Sunshine Building from 1-4 pm. There** will be a set of questions, some cryptic, some funny and some just plain daft for you and your children to solve, which will take you on a mysterious trip around the centre of the village. Solve all the clues correctly and you could win an exciting mystery prize! Entrance is only £1 per child, which includes refreshments and a chocolate egg. Once you have solved all the clues why not rest your weary feet and let the children create something sticky to take home! Sounds like fun? Come along and join in.

Rainbow Craft and Play Day

We are planning a colourful Rainbow Craft and Play Day on **Friday 4th June.** There will be a wide selection of craft items to Paint, colour, cut and stick, all of which you get to keep to decorate your walls! If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to help please feel free to contact one of us on the numbers below.

For further information please contact Lindsey Bladen **201516**, Kirsten Goodfield **200228** or Claire Thorby **781527**.

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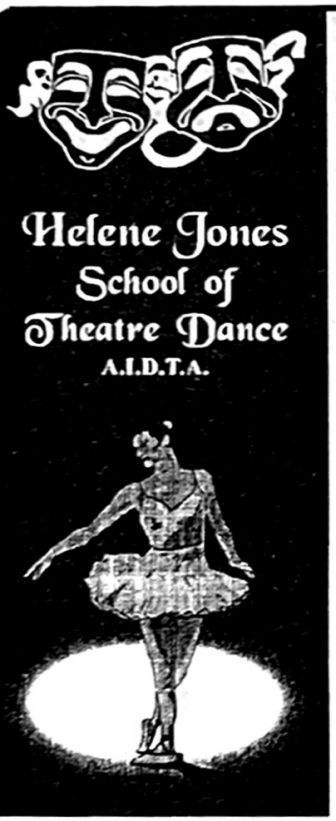

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The Colts

Last month I complained in this article about the waterlogged state of the football pitches in Bar Hill and the fact that most of the Colts teams are quickly gaining a fixture backlog. Well, has the situation improved? The answer is yes, but only as a result of the School pitch being playable, home fixtures being re-arranged as away games, and in the case of the Under 16 and 17 teams, hiring of pitches out of the Village. In particular, our thanks go to Cottenham Village College who have "adopted" the Under 17's and rented to us the use of their facilities for "as long as it takes". Most casual observers probably think, so what if the Bar Hill teams have to play all of their games out of the Village? If only it were that simple. The situation affects not only the Colts but also the Adult teams and apart from the inconvenience of extra travel, costs are incurred for pitch hire (one location in Cambridge charges £42 for the use of their facilities). Obviously these additional costs are a drain on scarce financial resources for all of the Clubs concerned. More importantly the current waterlogged state of the Village Green highlights the fact that Bar Hill continues to be inadequately served for sports facilities when compared to many, often smaller, villages. Is it not time that a proper Sports facility were established to serve all requirements?

A word of sympathy also needs to go to Fred Stiles. Fred spends a lot of hours looking after the pitch on the Village Green, and despite keeping it marked out is, I know, totally frustrated that the Village teams cannot use the facility.

Below are the latest League positions for our teams. However, many still have games in hand over their opponents and therefore it is fair to say that once all those games are played we will see a substantial improvement. To date the Under 16's have only played 7 league games out of a total of 20 for the Season.

Under 11's - 9th in Div 11D;
Under 12's - 5th in Div 12B;
Under 14's - 8th in Div 14B;
Under 15's - 3rd in Div 15B;
Under 16's - 10th in Div 16B;
Under 17's - 8th in Div 17B.

Performances of the month go to the Under 12's and Under 8's. Playing away at Godmanchester on 7th February the Under 12's recorded a 3 - 2 victory against a team which had only conceded 9 goals in ten previous games. On 13th February the Under 8 Mini - League team played at Cherry Hinton and also chalked-up a 3 - 2 win.

The social scene continues to thrive, as anyone who attended the sell-out Valentine's Disco on 6th February will confirm. It is a long time since our last sell-out and a combination of ticket, bar and raffle sales generated well over £700 for the Colts funds. A grateful committee sends its thanks to all who attended and contributed to a very successful evening.

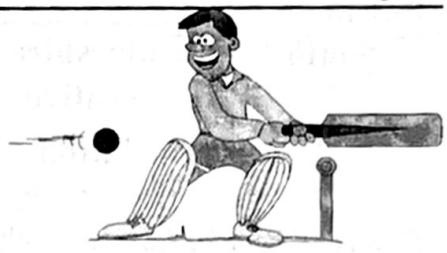
The next event will be a Jumble Sale, details of which will appear in next month's Bar Hill News.

Neville Watson ***781488***

Play Contract Bridge

Dry Drayton Duplicate Bridge School & Club - Mondays 7.00 pm - Dry Drayton Village Hall.

Polite atmosphere, refreshments, partners, short talks on techniques, EBU local points. Contact Brian Copping **780993**. Lapsed, social or improver players who have completed a learners course are welcome.



Bar Hill Cricket Club

1999 is here and it's time to clean up the whites and prepare for the new season. Bar Hill Cricket club will, again, have two teams in the CCA weekend Leagues and also a Youth Team (11 to 13 years).

We are always on the look out for new players. So if you'd like to 'swing the willow' this summer we will be holding indoor nets at Swavesey Village College on Sunday mornings beginning on March 7th between 10.00 am and 12:00 am or contact any of the club officials:

Peter or Julie Lemon **201502**
John Fuller **782403**
Martin Haslop **789298**

We are especially looking for 11 to 13 years olds to play in a competitive Youth League this summer. If you would like to play please contact:

Peter or Julie Lemon **201502**

Our CCA league fixtures have been finalised and here they are:

	1st Team	2nd Team
May 1st	H Histon II	A Barley II
May 8th	A Burwell II	H Barley II
May 15th	H CB Telephones	A St. Giles III
May 22nd	H Cottenham	
May 29th		H Barrington II
June 5th	H Over II	A Eversden II
June 12th	A Fenstanton	H St. Giles III
June 19th	H Milton II	A R.M.H.F
June 26th	A Camden	
July 3rd	A Histon II	H R.M.H.F
July 10th	H Histon II	A Barrington II
July 17th		A Weston Colville II
July 24th	A CB Telephones	H Eversden II
July 31st	H Camden	A Harlton
Aug. 7th	A Over II	H Harlton
Aug. 14th	H Fenstanton	
Aug. 21st	A Milton II	
Aug. 28th	H Weston Colville II	
Sept 4th	A Cottenham	

We also have cup games First team v Melbourn (Home). Second team v Abbots Ripton (Away) Both to be arranged.

South Cambridgeshire Conservative Association

Sat. March 6th ***Pasta, Plonk and Popular Games*** to include Table Tennis and darts. Tickets £7 each at 4 Hollytrees by kind invitation of Cllr. and Mrs. John Reynolds.

Fri. April 23rd ***St. George's Day Fish and Chip Supper*** at Longstanton Village Hall. Tickets £8. Our guest speaker will be Mr. John Shepperson on Medieval Swavesey.

June/July - event to be arranged.

Aug/Sept. - ***Sunday lunchtime BBQ*** at 4 Hollytrees by kind invitation of Cllr and Mrs. John Reynolds. Tickets £7 each. It is hoped Mr. Robert Sturdy MEP will be able to join us. Date to be confirmed.

Sat. Oct. 23rd ***Curry/Shepherd's Pie supper*** at 121 Appletrees by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Lay Tickets £7 each. Our guest speaker will be Sir Peter Brown, agent to the Rt. Hon. John Major MP and Area Director for Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Sat. Dec. 4th ***Christmas Lunch*** at the Octagon. More information later.

Iris Lay 780457.

South Cambridgeshire, North Rural Branch

Liberal Democrats

Tom Flanagan, D. Councillor **780571**

Arnold Bloor, Branch Chair **01223 262899**

Bob Finch, Branch Secretary **01223 264237**

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Ladies' International Group

Chinese chicken wings and boulay, a savoury rice with vegetables, will feature in our Bring and Share supper on Monday March 15th, 8 - 10pm, 12 Almond Grove. All are welcome, especially newcomers to the village.

Ring Florentine on **789153** or Anita on **202852** for more information. To help us plan ahead, please ring us by 8th March if you would like to come.

Longstanton WI

The Longstanton Womens' Institute would welcome ladies to join them at their monthly meetings. We are an informal group who enjoy a chat together with entertaining and interesting speakers, outings and a barbecue. It is a way of meeting new people (even your neighbour!) Do please come along. We meet the third Monday of each month. If you require further information please contact the Secretary on **201295**.

National Women's Register

The Bar Hill Branch of the NWR meets once a fortnight on a Monday or Thursday evening at 8pm. We are a lively group of women of varied ages and a cross section of occupations. Newcomers are always welcome, so why not come along and join us ?

8 O'Clock Club

April - school closed, no meeting

6 May Pets for Therapy

All meetings in the school at 8pm.

Barbara Page 780933

Bar Hill Tennis Club

Welcome to the 1999 season.

We start the new year on 1st May with the national 'Play Tennis Week'.

Please come along and join in.

We offer the following:-

* Coaching facilities for juniors and adults
* Competitive tennis for players of all abilities
* Public sessions for non-members
* Free private hire for Club members
* 'Ladies only' sessions
* Inter-club tournaments
* Adults' Club nights (Tuesday & Thursday)
* Rusty Racquets for those with long memories
* Keep fit, have fun and make new friends

If you want to find out more, **please** attend our AGM on Wed. 24th March, 8pm in the School's Studio Lounge, or give us a call

Peter Hering (Chairman) 781779

Nik Handley 782267

Janet Eglington 782690

Diary Dates

Thursday 18th March, Caribbean Evening, 16 Acorn Avenue.

Monday 29th March, Crime and Prevention - a talk by PC Richard Newman, 34 Acorn Avenue.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings or require further information, please don't hesitate to ring Jill Smith **780314** or Jean Prandy **780201**

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Bar Hill Sports & Social Club

As I mentioned in last month's issue, please make a note in your diaries of the Club's **AGM on Wednesday 24 March** 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. With a membership of over 1000 can I hope for a turnout in excess of the usual 30? As a member, it is your chance to express your views on the way the Club has been run over the past year and elect those you want to run it for the next year.

If you wish to stand for the Committee or as an Officer there is still time to put your name down on the sheets on the notice board; remember, if you are standing for Secretary or Treasurer both professional and character references are required prior to the AGM.

There are plans ahead for another "shopping trip" to France so if you are interested (and this trip includes some bonus duty free allowances), see the notices in the Club and ask Sue or Jethro for details. A non-refundable deposit of £15 is required per person.

Forthcoming events:

Friday 12 March - David Gayle (also Red Nose Day)
Wed. 17 March - St Patrick's Day – Guinness £1.50/pint Jamiesons £1/double
Fri. 2 April - Adults' EasterDisco
Sat.3 April - Childrens' Easter Disco
Sat.1 May - Bar Hill Golf Society Race Night
Fri.14 May - Nic Picasso

Not wishing to look too far forward, but our Christmas Pantomime "Mother Goose" has also been booked!

Sadly, we are losing the services of one of our fixtures and fittings; Ken Varney, one of our Door Stewards (he'll say the 'ansome one'), is retiring, so I would like to thank Ken publicly for all his help over the past years in nobbling all those new members and guests' 50p's. Good luck Ken, enjoy your retirement.

In the meantime we require a replacement Door Steward; please contact Lesley Sadler for further details.

The Five Nations Rugby is approaching its conclusion and I am pleased to say our experiment of all day opening on Saturday match days has proved both popular and successful. More power to the elbow!

Graham Sadler, Chairman
206117.

All Members of BHSSC

Special meeting to discuss New Year's Eve 1999.

Saturday 13th March
10.30 am at the Club
Please attend if you want to have your say!

A WOODLAND ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Sites are needed to plant millennium woodlands **throughout South Cambridgeshire.**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is marking the millennium by helping to create up to ten community woodland areas throughout the District.

A small number of possible sites have already been identified, but if the scheme is to be successful, people are invited to come forward with more suggestions for land for woodland areas. Parish Councils are already actively looking for sites, but suggestions are welcome from other groups and individuals.

An ideal site would be:

- between about 5 and 20 acres
- located within about a mile of an existing village or town with access for the public by footpath or road
- not in close proximity to another woodland which is open to the public

The scheme has the backing and expertise of the Woodland Trust and will use money from the Millennium Commission, and a £100,000 contribution from the

Council. An important element will be the involvement of local communities in designing and planting the woodland and local area fund-raising, to ensure community ownership.

Councillor Alan Wyatt MBE, Chairman of the Council and the Millennium Working Party, which is the steering committee for this initiative, commented, "The aim is to create woodland areas throughout the District so that as many people as possible have a woodland within easy reach. If you think a suitable site might be available, which could be given or sold, we would be delighted to hear from you."

If you think you might **know of a suitable site for a woodland in** South Cambridgeshire **please** call Paul Swift on (01223) **443017**

CAM SIGHT Volunteers Needed

Cam Sight is the local society for blind and partially sighted people. On a Tuesday afternoon, (2.00 - 4.00 pm term time only) we run the 'New ways Workshop' where visually impaired people can learn new skills, making them more confident to live independently at home. This workshop is supported by volunteers and led by one of our Rehabilitation Workers. Although an interest in people is much more important than experience, full training is given.

If a Tuesday is not convenient but you would still be interested in volunteering please give me a ring

Jenny Rolfe, ***01223 420033***

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- ***When?***
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- ***How much?***
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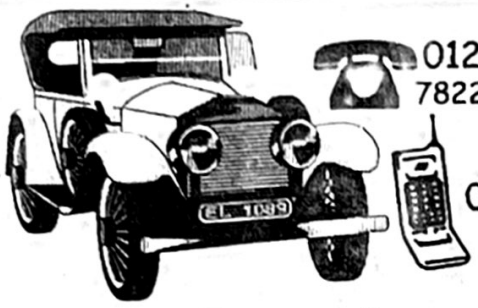

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Happy Hours (The Recycled Youth Club)

Apologies

In the February issue under the title of Christmas Carols I thanked all those who had participated in the Carols and those who had kindly donated funds. Regretfully I said that Heather Turner contributed £5 to round off our donation to the Arthur Rank Home to make it up to £100, I should have said Heather Turrell; sorry Heather.

News

Winter is by no way over yet, but most of our wrinklies are over the flu and back with us. Unfortunately three have yet to return from the Christmas break: Mary Spratt, Florence Meyers and our Nellie, who has had to have a cataract operation on her eye. Come on girls - get well soon - we all miss your company!

We had a new member join us in February, Ann Barnes. Lovely to have you with us Ann. Unfortunately, Ann won't let Terry join yet, he's got to continue working for the time being!

No doubt many of you will remember Ron Nicholls who lived in Partridge Drive until his wife died and then moved to Girton to be with his family. Well, lovely old Ron passed away during the early part of February. What a wonderful old soldier he was! I was only speaking to him recently, inviting him back to see us all in the Club when next he was in Bar Hill. God Bless him.

One of our lovely ladies of Bar Hill has been off for a few weeks, none other than Helen Drewell. Both Sid and I have been round to see her, and she is certainly improving. Beware all you residents of Bar Hill! Watch out for Miss Moss as she speeds along the Spine path. What a terrible menace she is! But we do miss her.

Special 'thank you' lunch for the committee

This was voted on and passed at the November '98 AGM. Our Chairman has asked me to pass on her thanks and that of the committee members for the wonderful dinner at the Trinity Foot.

Many thanks to you all.

Membership

The membership of Happy Hours is normally about 80. We had, however, hoped that with the recent spate of retirements in the Village some more of you would be coming along to join in the Monday fun of Happy Hours. We will try to take good care of you. If you are shy or somewhat hesitant, give Sid a ring on **201384**; he'll soon tell you how to join.

Spring holiday

Our Chairlady is still awaiting the brochures for our Spring holiday. We will let you know as soon as we hear from the travel company.

90th Birthday

March 10th will be a happy day for Frank Sadler. It will be his 90th birthday. We have several members in their eighties, but Frank will be our first to reach 90. We will certainly try to make it a special occasion for you, Frank!

A story to live by

My sister had just died. My brother in law opened a drawer in her bureau and handed me a tissue wrapped parcel, inside an exquisite new silk slip, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. 'She bought this for a special occasion', he said bitterly. 'Don't ever save anything for a special occasion, every day you're alive is a special occasion'.

His words changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less, I'm sitting in the garden and admiring the view and not fussing about the weeds, I'm using the good china and crystal, I'm wearing my good coat and my expensive perfume to go shopping; after all the people in shops and banks have eyes and noses too, as well as my party-going friends.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited, the letters I had meant to write, the friends I had meant to contact, the people I had not told often enough that I truly loved. I'm trying hard, and every morning now, when I open my eyes, I tell myself that this is a special day.

Light Bulbs

*** How many shop stewards does it take to change a light-bulb?** One, but he never changes just the one bulb. "If we change one, then they'll all have to be changed. One out, all out !"

*** How many garage mechanics does it take to change a light-bulb ?** Six. One to polish the fitting, one to replace the fitting after it's been polished, ('It was looking very worn, sir'), one to get a new light-bulb from the suppliers, one to go back to the suppliers to get the right light-bulb, one to try to change the bulb without success and one to phone later and say, "It'll take a couple of weeks, squire and you won't get much change out of a hundred quid".

*** How many ballet dancers does it take to change a light-bulb?** Just one, provided he can execute a 'Saute' or a 'Jeté' to reach the bulb. Otherwise two, to execute a pas de deux, with lift.

*** How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light-bulb?** One. But the bulb must really want to change.

*** How many procrastinators does it take to change a light-bulb?** Just one - but would it be all right if he did it next week ?

*** How many shop assistants does it take to change a light-bulb?** Only one, but I'm afraid he will only change it if you have the receipt for the old one.

*** A patient** in a mental home was firmly convinced he had swallowed a light-bulb and all the efforts of the team of psychiatrists to persuade him otherwise were of no avail. Finally the chief psychiatrist tried one last trick. He put the patient to bed under heavy sedation and then removed the light bulb from the bedside lamp and laid it on the patient's chest. Presently the patient came round and the psychiatrist said "Nothing to worry about now Mr Smith. We've managed to remove the light-bulb surgically.

The patient examined the light-bulb carefully. Then he looked up and said scornfully, "You must think I'm stupid, doctor. This is a clear forty watt bulb and the one I swallowed was a hundred watt pearl".

Poem

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Jim James 201127

Bar Hill Childminders

Contact Deb Benstead 780284

British Heart Foundation

CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES AND COUNTRY WALK AND FUN DAY -20 June 1999

Great family **FUN DAY** starting from 10.00am - 12.00 noon with a six mile walk from and returning to Coton Orchard, Coton for a fun packed afternoon.

* Easy six mile circular route
* Pleasant country walk with finest Cambridge College sights
*Certificates for each walker, prize for highest individual fund raiser
*Barbecue from 12.00 noon at Coton Orchard
*Continuous event programme
*Side shows, games, stalls

Everyone welcome, British Heart Foundation are looking for volunteers to help. Side shows, games, stalls, etc. also welcome.
Please contact Howard Taylor, BHF Representative (Tel; **01954 230644)** if you can help or for further details.

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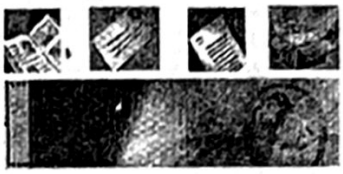
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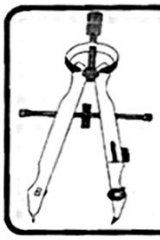
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Any parent can have a child with disabilities, and although many families find caring for their disabled child rewarding, it can also be very hard work. Finding time to do "ordinary" things with other members of the family can sometimes be impossible.
The LINK Scheme is one of the County Council's services for children and aims to link children who have a learning and/or physical disability to individuals willing to offer help, support and friendship. The purpose of the scheme is to support families in looking after their disabled child at home. The child would normally visit the caters home for a short period of time such as a weekend each month.
The LINK Scheme knows of children in your area who need this type of help, and are seeking many more carers. CAN YOU HELP?
No formal qualifications are necessary, you simply need time, patience and an understanding and caring attitude towards other people. A sense of humour helps, too! A small tax-free allowance is paid to cover expenses.
Phone the LINK Scheme on **01223 718011** to find out about the assessment process.

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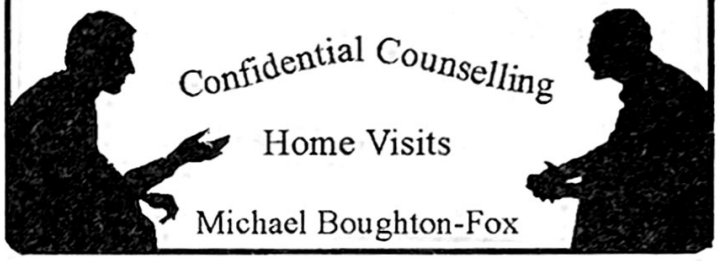

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Church Services

Morning Sermon Series - Spring 1999 -'God's Prophetic People'

Fri. 5th	7.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service	
Sun. 7th	10.00am	Special Anniversary Service	Preacher: Rev James Newcome
	6.30pm	Holy Communion	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
Sun. 14th	8.00am	Holy Communion	
	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Service	Preacher: Mrs. Di Gunton
	6.30pm	Evening Worship	Led by members of Open House Groups
Sun. 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion	
		Sermon: 'Blessings' (Malachi)	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
	6.30pm	Contemporary Service	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison
Wed. 24th	10.00am	Mid-Week Holy Communion	
Sun. 28th	10.00am	Palm Sunday Family Service	
		Sermon : 'Promise' (Zechariah)	Preacher: Rev Anthony Howells
	6.30pm	Quiet Communion	Preacher: Rev Gary Renison

People to Contact:			
	The Minister	Rev Gary Renison	01954 781629
	Assistant Minister	Rev Anthony Howells	01223 311572
	Church Secretary	Mrs. Joy Childs	01954 260623
	Church Administrator	Dr. Elizabeth Burns	01954 206120

Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs

Hills Road Cambridge (the Catholic Church which serves Bar Hill)

Parish Priest: Mgr. Tony Rogers **01223 350787**

Assistant Priest: Fr. David Ward Priest with responsibility for Bar Hill

Deacons: Revd Robert Joyce, Tony Northrop, Tony Sutton

Masses in the Parish Church in Cambridge
Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri: 8am & 12.15 pm
Tue: 8am & 7.30 pm
Saturdays: 6pm First Mass of Sundays
also 6pm at Bar Hill Church Centre

Holydays of Obligation: 8 am, 10 am, 7.30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tue. 6.45 pm (not after Mass)
Sat: 10.30 - 11.15 am, 4.30 - 5.15 pm, 7.00 - 7.45 pm

Details of other services are published in the weekly newsletter which is available at the 6 pm Mass each Saturday - copies are available in the Church Centre.

THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

The Guiding units of the Village are busy preparing for Thinking Day with various crafts and cooking activities. One of the Rainbow units is busy corresponding with another unit in Canada. They will all be celebrating Thinking Day with a Church service on 21st February.

The two Brownie units are preparing for their Brownie Revels on Sunday 28th March, which is going to have an Easter theme.

The two Brownie units and the Guides are also looking forward to going away to Norfolk in May.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation of space in the shed..

The leaders of most of the units have just attended a very interesting and enjoyable training weekend at Waddow in Lancashire.

If anyone is interested in joining the Guide Association, either child or adult, please contact Denise Fear on **202846**

Bar Hill Church Holiday Club 1999.

The dates of next year's Holiday Club have had to be unavoidably changed. It will now run from **Monday August 9th to Friday August 13th** inclusive. We are sorry to have to change the dates but hope that early notice of the change will not inconvenience too many of us. More details of the theme of the Holiday Club will emerge in a few months time.

Rev. Gary Renison

Diary

Mon.	1st	8.00 pm	The seven wonders of the world	National Women's Register	30 Hillcrest
Wed.	3rd	SOLD OUT	Stencil Demonstration	PTA	School
Thu.	4th	8.00 pm	Birthday Party	8 O'Clock Club	
Sat.	6th	10.00 - 4.00 pm	Craft Fair	Sunshine Pre-School Playgroup	School Hall
		2.00 - 4.00 pm	Jumble Sale	Scouts & Cubs	Scout Hut
			Pasta, Plonk and Popular Games	Conservatives	4 Hollytrees
Sun.	7th	8.00 pm	Valentine's Disco (+ Fish & Chip supper)	The Colts	School
Thu.	11th	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Crosspatcth		Scout Hut
Sat.	13th	6.00 pm	Exhibition evening	Woodcraft Folk	School
Mon.	15th	7.30pm	AGM	Toy Library	School Community Lounge
Sat.	20th	9.00 - 1.00 pm	Car Wash	PTA	School Playground
Thu.	25th	7.30 pm	Meeting	Royal British Legion	Village Hall
Fri.	26th		End of Term	School	
			Duo - 'The Drivers'		The Fox
Sat.	27th	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Jumble Sale	Sunshine Pre-School Playgroup	School
Apr.					
Fri.	9th	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt	Children's Activity Afternoon	Around Bar Hill on foot
Tue.	13th		Start of Term	School	
Sat.	17th	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Jumble Sale	Colts	School
Sat.	24th	2.00 - 3.00 pm	Nearly New Sale	Toy Library	School
Thu.	22nd	7.30 pm	Meeting	Royal British Legion	Village Hall

New Council Tax for South Cambs. residents

Councillors at South Cambridgeshire District Council have agreed to charge a council tax of £50 (for a Band D property occupied by two or more adults) for the coming financial year and have expressed their aim of maintaining at this same level for the following two years. The charge will be the first the District Council has levied upon its residents in six years.

The District Council provides South Cambridgeshire with a wide range of services including refuse collection, street cleansing, housing, environmental health services, planning and conservation, sports, arts and crime reduction. Over the last six years these services have been financially provided for residents from grant support and subsidy from the authority's balances and reserves.

Councillor Richard Summerfield, Chairman of the Finance, Resources and Staffing Committee explained, "South Cambridgeshire District Council is a debt free authority - one of only a few in the country. Over the last six years we haven't needed to make a council tax charge, but our financial reserves cannot last forever.

"For three years we were able to save residents money by setting a minus amount, which meant we subsidised charges levied by the other precepting bodies by £16.41 (for a Band D property). For three years after that we simply charged nothing.

"Reserves are now running low, external grant support has gone down and our overall level of spending, in-line with providing a standard level of service, has increased.

This increase in spending is also in line with the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA), which is a central government benchmark on how much we should be spending, and which has also gone up slightly for the first time in six years.

"Our figures show what we should be charging £85 per year (for a Band D property), but thankfully the Council is still able to draw from its reserves to make up this level. Councillors have therefore voted to phase in the tax at a sustainable level.

"The costs work out to approximately 96p per week (for a Band D property) and we are still well below the amounts being charged by other local authorities in the county."

The Council Tax bill is arrived at by adding the requirements of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police Authority, and Parishes to the District figure. South Cambridgeshire District Council is the billing authority for all the charges and the new charges will take effect from April 1999.